



Lincoln-Lancaster County
Health Dept.
3140 N Street
Lincoln, NE 68510
(402) 441-8021

<http://www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/city/health/envIRON/pollu/>

Computer Recycling



Twelve million PCs are land filled annually in the U.S and such materials pose a threat to groundwater. By the year 2005, one computer will become obsolete for every new one put on the market, many of which will be destined for landfills, incinerators or hazardous waste exports. Only 6 percent of computers were recycled compared to the numbers of new computers put on the market this year.



What is the hazard in computers?

There are 4 to 6 pounds of lead embedded in the glass of monitors. Lead exposure can damage the central and peripheral nervous systems, circulatory system, and kidneys, and has been shown to increase learning disabilities in children. Other computer system components contain hazardous materials such as mercury, arsenic, and cadmium, which can cause numerous health problems. Mercury can permanently damage or fatally injure the brain and kidneys. Arsenic and cadmium are known human carcinogens as they increase the risks of lung, lymphatic, and prostate cancer.

Before you dispose of your computer consider the alternative options.

Donation & Reuse

All computers must be in working condition. Before making a donation contact the organizations in order to ensure that your computer equipment meets the minimum specifications for donation. Only working equipment with a Pentium 3 processor or higher. Please furnish make and model information.

Diocese of Lincoln Schools
3400 Sheridan Blvd.
Lincoln, NE 68506
e-mail: donations@cdolinc.net

Lincoln Public Schools
5901 O Street
Lincoln, NE 68510
Phone: 436-1012

Vietnam Veterans of America
5631 S 48 Street
Lincoln, NE
Phone: 476-8387

Salvation Army – Processing Fac.
1126 N 27 Street
Lincoln, NE
Phone: 474-6263

Family Thrift Center
1745 O Street
Lincoln, NE
Phone : 476-2857

Lincoln Action Program
210 O Street
Lincoln, NE 68508
Phone : 471-4515

Refurbishing & Recycling

Periphery equipment (i.e. CPUs, speakers, keyboards, mice, etc.) will be taken for free. There may be a charge for monitors. Recycling costs between \$0.30 - \$0.40 per pound for complete system including monitor. Please call to make arrangements **BEFORE** delivering your material for refurbishing and/or recycling.

Lincoln Action Program
210 O Street
Lincoln, NE 68508
Phone: 471-4515

Computer Renaissance
Ste. B 330 N 48th Street
Lincoln, NE 68504
Phone : 465-4040

* Ask where the recycled computer will go. In general, be sure to avoid recyclers that use incineration (sometimes called “thermal recycling”) as well as ones that ship waste overseas for processing. Incineration is not a recycling process and shipments overseas can end up in countries with no environmental regulations to protect human health and safety.

Disposal

Please call to make arrangements **BEFORE** delivering your material for disposal. There may be a charge for disposal.

Environmental Compliance Enterprises
1321 N 68th Street
Lincoln, NE 68505
Phone : 466-2268

Waverly Computer Scrappers
10960 N 142nd Street
Waverly, NE 68462
Phone : 786-3933

Consumer Tips

- Look for Energy Star-certified machines; they consume 70 percent less electricity than computers that lack power-management systems.
- If buying a new monitor, flat-panel screen models are an easy greener choice; they lack five to eight pounds of lead found in conventional CRT monitors.
- Ask about consumer take-back programs like the Electronics Recycling Shared Responsibility Program, which includes Panasonic, Sharp, and Sony.
- Avoid buying new computer equipment unnecessarily; whenever possible, upgrade your current machine.
- If you do need to purchase a computer, consider buying used.
- Even after buying a new machine you might want to hang onto the old one instead of throwing away. Consider networking the two computers, or use the old computer to play games or serve some other specialized function.



**50% of a computer is made of plastic,
30% is steel, 10% aluminum, 10% are
boards and miscellaneous wire, 1% gold.
Over 97% of the materials in a computer
are recyclable.**